

Introduction

As if three volumes on California water resources weren't enough, here's yet a fourth. In contrast to previous Water Plan Updates, this time around we have consolidated the most important messages of *California Water Plan Update 2005* in Volume 1, so as not to burden those messages with the many details and nuances of California water planning. But for those of you who live and breathe for complexity, Volume 4 is for you. In the following pages of what we informally call the "Encyclopedia Water Plan," DWR provides a more transparent and extensive look at many of the issues presented already in the foregoing three volumes.

As you will soon see, the Encyclopedia Water Plan is formally divided into the following subject categories for easy indexing: *Background; Crop Water Use; Data and Analytical Tools; Environment; Environmental Justice; Global Climate Change; Hydrology; Infrastructure; Landscape Water Use; Legislation; Litigation; Planning; Tribal History and Consultation; and Water Quality*. At the end of Volume 4, you will also find a rather nifty glossary for your use while reading all four volumes of the Water Plan Update. But beyond these strict categories, the articles contained herein fall more generally into the following three areas.

- **Background on California water resources.** So, when did the St. Francis Dam fail? What's the background and current status of the Monterey Agreement litigation? In surveying Water Plan Update users, many responded that they frequently turn to the document for this good, basic information on water resources in California.
- **Water resources analysis.** Trying to figure out water resources in California is hard work, and many of the following articles provide the reader with an in-depth discussion of some of the complex issues with which State, regional, and local planners grapple. These articles focus on planning techniques, "data and tools" for water resources evaluation, and just about everything you ever wanted to know about evapotranspiration.
- **Emerging issues in California water resources.** The Water Plan Update previews many water resources issues that are just emerging and/or growing in concern. They include climate change, environmental justice, the integration of land use and water resources in planning, the future of California agriculture, and the potential for water use efficiency in the environmental sector. DWR expects that many of these subjects could take a larger role in the next Water Plan Update.

Not every article suggested or even submitted for the Reference Guide was accepted for publication. To be included, an article needed a direct link to an issue in one of the other three volumes of the document, and, in fact, had to provide more substantive background or discussion of that issue. Articles had to be reasonably objective (even those with bylines) and well written. For the most part, the Water Plan Advisory Committee and DWR staff were the primary sources of ideas for Reference Guide articles.

So, we invite you to choose, read, and enjoy those articles in which you are interested. We are, of course, obligated to close by noting that these articles contain solely the views of the authors themselves, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Water Resources or the Water Plan Advisory Committee.

--John T. Andrew, Editor

